

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 H-01
INR-10 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 ISO-00 /079 W
-----042107 010533Z /15 S

R 311101Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5929
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 10007

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, SS, AG, MO, MR, SP
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM ON MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MADRID 8390, 8255, 7931, 7631

1. FONMIN OREJA AT LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR AUGUST 29 SAID THAT HE HAD TWO HOUR DISCUSSION AUGUST 28 WITH UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM, WHO WAS PASSING THROUGH MADRID, LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE QUESTION OF THE SAHARA. ACCORDING TO OREJA, WALDHEIM SAID THAT HIS PROPOSAL TO HOLD A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN MADRID (REFTELS) WAS ABSOLUTELY DEAD AT THE MOMENT. THE LAST DISCUSSION WHICH WALDHEIM HAD WITH BOUMEDIENNE WHICH TOUCHED ON THIS SUBJECT WAS ON JULY 12 AT THE OAU CONFERENCE IN KHARTOUM. AT THAT TIME BOUMEDIENNE HAD INSISTED ON SEPARATE POLISARIO REPRESENTATION AT SUCH A CONFERENCE AND THIS WAS STILL THE ALGERIAN POSITION. IT EFFECTIVELY RULES OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE SINCE MOROCCANS WOULD NOT AGREE TO ANY POLISARIO REPRESENTATION, EVEN AS PART OF ALGERIAN DELEGATION.

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2. OREJA ADDED THAT IN HIS OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH BOUTEFLIKA, THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD INDICATED THAT THE GOA WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A SAHARAN STATE WHICH DID NOT ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA, AS LONG AS IT BECAME A CLEARLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL ENTITY. OREJA SAID THAT KING HASSAN'S AUGUST 20 SPEECH WAS A

NOTABLE HARDENING OF THE MOROCCAN POSITION AND THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM WERE THEREFORE QUITE SLIM. THIS WAS NOT A SITUATION WHICH TIME WOULD HEAL AND IF NOTHING WERE DONE ABOUT IT THINGS WERE BOUND TO DETERIORATE. AT THE SAME TIME, OREJA SAID THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-VIABLE NEW STATE IN THE SPANISH SAHARA WOULD ONLY BE A CAUSE FOR FURTHER TENSIONS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A STATE WOULD BE HARMFUL TO SPANISH SECURITY INTERESTS, OREJA REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD INDEED BE THE CASE.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION AUGUST 29, MFA DIRGEN FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS PEDRO LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA ECHOED OREJA'S PESSIMISM TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, WHO WAS TRANSITING MADRID ON HIS WAY TO KENYATTA'S FUNERAL. REFERRING TO UPCOMING VISIT TO MADRID OF MAURITANIAN FONMIN, LOPEZ SAID THE POSITIONS OF THE MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS ARE NOW FIXED AND THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE PRACTICAL ROOM FOR MANEUVER TO ACHIEVE SOME SORT OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND HE POINTED OUT THAT, ACCORDING TO SPANISH INFORMATION, THE MAURITANIANS HAD WITHDRAWN MILITARILY FROM THEIR PORTION OF THE SAHARA AND THAT THE POLISARIO SHOWS EVERY SIGN OF WISHING TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE. IT IS THUS POSSIBLE THAT SOME TYPE OF DE FACTO SITUATION WILL DEVELOP WHICH ALL

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THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE CAN LIVE WITH, HE SAID.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID10007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780357-0276
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978084/aaaaacxr.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b00dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 8390
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1667892
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WALDHEIM ON MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, SS, AG, MO, MR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b00dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014